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REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. GENERAL 1/

1. The Turks and Caicos Islands lie south-east of the Bahamas and about 145 kilometres north of the Dominican Republic. The Territory consists of two groups of islands separated by Turks Island Passage, a deep-water channel approximately 35 kilometres wide. The Turks Islands are situated east of the Passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The Turks group comprises two inhabited islands, namely, Grand Turk (on which Cockburn Town, the capital, is located) and Salt Cay, as well as eight uninhabited cays and a large number of islets. The principal islands in the Caicos group are North Caicos, South Caicos, Middle (or Grand) Caicos and Providenciales. East Caicos and West Caicos are uninhabited.

2. According to information received from the Office of the Chief Minister of the Territory, the latest census taken in the Territory, on 31 May 1990, registered a population of 11,465, a 54.5 per cent increase from 7,413 tallied in the 1980 census. In mid-1991, the population was estimated at 12,500. 2/

II. CONSTITUTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Constitution

3. The 1988 Constitution of the Territory provides for a Governor appointed by the Queen, an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. The new Legislative Council consists of 19 members. There are 13 elected representatives, 3 members appointed by the Governor and 3 ex officio members of the Executive Council. Under the Constitution, the three members appointed by the Governor are chosen as follows: one member on the advice of the Chief Minister, another in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition and a third at his own discretion.

4. The Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order, 1988, conferred powers of administration on the Governor that were usually those of the elected Government. According to the Constitution, the Governor may refuse to assent to legislation or bills passed by the Legislature. He may also enforce bills that have not previously been approved by the Legislature.

B. Political parties and elections

5. General elections are held every four years. The general elections of 3 April 1991 were contested by candidates from the two traditional political parties, namely, the Progressive National Party (PNP), which won 8 of the 13 seats in the Legislative Council, and the People's Democratic Movement (PDM), which won the five remaining seats. 3/

6. On the basis of those returns, the Governor appointed the head of PNP, Mr. Charles Washington Misick, as Chief Minister, and four other elected members of the Council as Government Ministers. 4/ The new Government was sworn in on 15 April 1991 during the first session of the Legislative Council. 3/

C. Constitutional review

7. In his Budget Address to the Legislature in July 1993, the Chief Minister said that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had accepted the proposed changes to the Constitution submitted to its Foreign and Commonwealth Office by the territorial Government. The amendments, drafted during a constitutional review exercise, had enabled the Chief Minister, inter alia, to increase the number of members in the Government from five to six, and to delegate certain functions of the Public Service Commission to other government organs.

8. The constitutional changes also affected the electoral provisions by introducing a system of single member constituency for the next general elections. The Chief Minister said that his Government would continue to campaign for further constitutional changes.

9. In a letter dated 20 February 1992 addressed to the Constitutional Commissioner, the leader of the Opposition said that his party, the People's Democratic Movement, had criticized the amendments to the Constitution which, according to PDM, had been formulated without proper consultation with the people of the Turks and Caicos. His party, which did not participate in the constitutional review, characterized the whole exercise as a unilateral action by the Government.

D. Future status of the Territory

10. Following a review of its policy and management with respect to its Caribbean dependent Territories, initiated in 1991, the United Kingdom made a significant policy change in 1992. (The policy statement has been reproduced in extenso in document A/AC.109/1137, para. 17.)

11. The new policy envisages better dialogue, coordination and cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Territories. It also aims at restructuring the management of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as well as the Overseas Development Agency, both in the United Kingdom and in the Caribbean.

12. In his address to the Legislature on 30 March 1992, the Chief Minister said that:

> "We should not seek political independence at this time as others would have us do. In the short term, this would only result in the lowering of standards, bastardization of values, the practice of corruption, the pollution of the system of justice and manipulation of the electorate as has happened in many of our neighbouring Caribbean countries" (A/AC.109/1139, para. 17).

13. On 24 November 1993, in a keynote address to a conference on dependent Territories entitled "Progress through Partnership", Mr. Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, outlined the policy of the Government of the United Kingdom on its dependent Territories. (For a summary of his speech, see A/AC.109/1180, paragraphs 30-36.)

E. Public service

14. In his 1992 Budget Speech, the Chief Minister said that over 50 per cent of the Territory's annual budget was related to manpower costs. He added that the budgeted expenditure for the civil service for 1991/92 was US$ 29.2 million, 5/ an increase of 12.6 per cent over the previous year. The Chief Minister further said that it was essential to contain the growth of the civil service in order to ensure the success of the Government's financial policies.

15. Government statistics showed a total of 878 civil servants for the period 1992-1993 and 882 for the period 1993-1994. Addressing the Legislature in July 1993, the Chief Minister said that it had long been recognized that the civil service was overstaffed. However, there was no mechanism in place or funds available to handle a retrenchment programme. Public sector reform would inevitably call for rationalization of the service, which would include redundancy.

16. Inasmuch as previous attempts to reform the public sector had been unsuccessful, the Government had secured the services of a Public Sector Reform Coordinator, who would prepare an efficiency review study of the public service. The Government had pledged that, in the event that the study would lead to a substantial reduction in the number of civil servants, a compensation package would be granted to those affected. In addition, the Government would provide job search assistance, skills development and private sector employment incentives. The objective of that assistance programme would be to enhance the competitiveness of the dismissed workers in the labour market.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

17. The economy of the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to be based primarily on property development, offshore banking, tourism, the export of fish and government expenditure. The Territory also draws considerable external assistance from the United Kingdom, Canada and such international and regional institutions as the European Development Fund and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

18. Owing to the world recession, the overall level of economic activity declined in financial year 1992/93. This situation was compounded further by persisting difficulties encountered by the Government in its quest for reliable quality air service to the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Territory experienced a drop of 8 per cent in the number of tourist arrivals. Further, it suffered a slow-down in its construction sector, as well as a shortfall in its revenue collection due in great part to poor performance in the customs sector.

19. During the period under review, the few positive developments in the economy included the completion of key tourism facilities in Providenciales and some progress in the offshore financial services, although the Government recognizes that the Territory's economic performance could be improved by better promotional activities.

20. Also during this period, the bilateral aid programme which the Government had negotiated with the United Kingdom had positive effects, among which was the setting up of public infrastructure projects designed to support the development of business and investment in the Territory. Another major economic development was the start of air services to Providenciales by an international air carrier, thereby providing a boost to the tourist industry.

21. The Caribbean Development Bank reports that, in the medium term, economic prospects for the Turks and Caicos will be linked closely to changes in the external environment, particularly economic conditions in the United States of America. Tourism is expected to be the major growth sector but, given the dependence of the Territory on the United States market, the growth prospects of this industry will depend on improvements in the United States economy. In that connection, some investors have shown interest in the tourist sector, but the uncertainty of the global economic situation has resulted in the temporary postponement of new investments. 6/

B. Public finance

22. The combined effect of the above-mentioned negative economic factors led to a budget deficit, which was expected to reach $4.8 million for the period 1992-1993, with revenue and expenditure reaching $23.4 million and $28.2 million respectively. For the period 1993-1994, the deficit was expected to be $4.1 million which would require substantial borrowing, thus raising the government debt to a critical level.

23. The Chief Minister announced that to remedy the situation the Government had taken emergency measures, which included the following: freeze on salary increments for civil servants; pay cut for ministers; selective cuts on operating expenditure such as travel (especially overseas) and subsistence costs, as well as overtime costs; selective deferral of certain training and scholarship programmes; freeze on the acquisition of small capital items included in the recurrent budget; and elimination of staff support costs such as the provision of uniforms.

24. The Chief Minister made clear, however, that certain sectors considered essential by the Government would not be subject to cost reductions. Those related to health, security, education and revenue collection. The Government was also studying the recommendations contained in a comprehensive report prepared by a consultant on ways and means to improve the efficiency of the Government's revenue collection. The Chief Minister stressed that this exercise was not about raising more revenue by imposing new taxes. Rather, taking into account the report's warning against overtaxing the Territory's economic base, the Government's initiatives would focus on devising a more efficient way of collecting taxes and using those taxes to provide good incentives for economic development. In addition, the Government was planning to introduce for 1993 a zero growth budget which, together with the planned reform of the public service, would help to redress the economic performance of the Territory and reduce its deficit.

25. The Caribbean Development Bank reported that, in 1992, a total of 1,538 offshore companies registered in the Territory, compared with 1,200 in 1991. To sustain growth in this field, an offshore financial sector marketing consultancy was undertaken during the year and, as a result, a major promotional programme was planned, together with a study to identify new areas of activity and envisage future legislative changes. 6/

C. Land tenure, agriculture and livestock

26. The total land area of the Territory is approximately 50,180 hectares. Beach-front properties, amounting to some 2,400 hectares, are owned by private land developers. The Executive Council of the Territory and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom adopted a new land policy designed to facilitate the full and gainful participation of the islanders in the development of the country.

27. The agriculture sector is small and limited to subsistence farming for the local market. More than 90 per cent of the food consumed in the Territory is imported from the United States, Haiti and/or the Dominican Republic. Limited farming activities are carried out on North Caicos and Middle Caicos and, to a lesser extent, on Providenciales and Grand Turk.

28. The Chief Minister has expressed his conviction that the Turks and Caicos could become self-sufficient in certain food items through the establishment, jointly by the Government and the private sector, of market gardening and farming, first on North Caicos where there is a reasonable supply of underground fresh water. This would supply the tourist industry with some of its food requirements and provide jobs.

29. The Government was also seeking to assist cattle owners in relocating their cattle and in organizing a proper husbandry industry, with the hope of supplying the local market with meat products.

D. Fisheries

30. Fishing is one of the most important primary economic activities in the Territory. Its main commodities are lobster and conch. This industry provides all of the Territory's exports and is an important source of employment.

31. According to the Caribbean Development Bank, the fisheries industry received a boost in 1992 as idle construction workers returned to traditional activities. Output of lobster and conch increased significantly when compared with production in 1991. 6/

32. The Chief Minister said in his 1993 Budget Speech that better regulation of the fishing industry through the reduction of foreign poaching and the controlling and capture of undersized products had resulted in a dramatic improvement in catches. In continuance of those efforts, the Government was considering new legislation for the control of all marine resource exploitation. Meanwhile, catch rates had increased by some 65 per cent in the lobster fishery

and by 20 per cent in the conch fishery. Over the last three years, the total value of the fishery with respect to payments made to fishermen had increased from $2.4 million to $3.75 million.

33. In support of efforts by the Marine Department to manage the lobster and conch resources, a project research programme had been instituted and expanded. This had involved continued infrastructure development, including the construction of an aquarium and laboratory facility on South Caicos. Research activities undertaken included lobster and conch tagging to estimate growth, migration patterns and mortality rates; mapping the main marine habitats (coral, seagrass, mangrove and sandy algal areas) to provide data for stock assessment; deployment of artificial lobster habitat to increase the number of lobsters which can survive on the Caicos bank; collection of economic and social data from the industry to understand better how the latter functions; and development of programmes and training in computer systems to store and analyse data.

34. The Chief Minister said that the data collected from all those research activities would be used to develop an appropriate plan for the sector detailing proposals for sustainable marine resource management. Also, the Fisheries Management and Development Programme had successfully undertaken surveys of the potential resources of deep-water snapper and grouper, as well as nearshore tuna. While development potential remained limited, increased catches of snapper and grouper had been made by local vessels.

E. Tourism

35. Tourism continued to be the main source of revenue for the Territory. As such, the Government accords high priority to the carefully planned development of this sector.

36. According to the Caribbean Development Bank, total visitor arrivals dropped to 52,000 in 1992, a 4.5 per cent decline from the previous year. This can be attributed to the recession in the United States, whose market accounts for approximately 70 per cent of tourist arrivals in the Territory. Limited airline access is another principal reason for the decrease in tourism. There was no major United States airline operating a scheduled service to the Territory for most of 1992 and temporary arrangements to provide the needed service proved inadequate. In December 1992, a major United States carrier introduced a daily service to Providenciales from Miami. This is expected to contribute significantly towards increasing the number of future arrivals. 6/

37. The Chief Minister expressed his satisfaction that the Government had been able to negotiate, jointly with the private sector, for American Airlines to service the Territory (see para. 20). He added that the airline had agreed to increase the number of passengers either by using larger airplanes or by increasing the frequency of flights to Providenciales. In addition, Turks and Caicos Airways had decided to commence direct flights between Grand Turk and Miami twice weekly. Further, British Caribbean Airways had been granted a licence to operate between the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands, providing service as well to points between the Turks and Caicos and Puerto

Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Bahamas. It had recently indicated its intention to begin operations.

38. The Chief Minister reported that between January and May 1993, tourist arrivals had increased by 36 per cent increase as compared with the same period in 1992. That trend was expected to continue throughout the summer, with many hotels and guest houses booking record numbers of tourists from Europe. Meanwhile, the Government had completed the drafting of its tourism policy, the main objectives of which were to increase the number and quality of visitors to the Territory, to establish national standards for the industry and to increase to the utmost revenue from the sector.

39. The Government was also committed to the involvement of Turks and Caicos islanders in the hospitality industry, not only as employees, but also as property owners. In this connection, the Government would support the establishment of additional accommodations for tourists. The growth in the tourist industry provided opportunities for intersectoral linkages in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, handicraft and offshore finance in relation to which the Government sought to coordinate activities so that more of the revenue derived from tourism might be retained in the local economy.

F. Communications and other basic facilities

40. Communications and other basic facilities are important to the Territory in terms of both maintaining contact between the inhabited islands and servicing the economy of the Territory, which depends on tourism, offshore banking and the activities of the business community.

Roads

41. The total length of roads in the Territory was 547 kilometres at the end of 1989, and their distribution by island was as follows: Grand Turk, 79 kilometres; Salt Cay, 12 kilometres; South Caicos, 45 kilometres; Middle Caicos, 64 kilometres; North Caicos, 130 kilometres; and Providenciales, 137 kilometres.

Sea

42. There are small harbours on Grand Turk and Providenciales, as well as docking facilities on North Caicos, South Caicos and Salt Cay. Middle Caicos has no docking facilities. Most materials required for the physical development of the islands, as well as durable and other bulk consumer goods, are imported and delivered by sea. The majority of vessels calling at the ports of the Territory operate from the United States or the Dominican Republic.

Air

43. According to the territorial Government, there are six airstrips on the Turks and Caicos Islands, of which only the one located on Salt Cay remains unpaved, while the airstrip on Middle Caicos is partially paved. Air transport is heavily relied upon for carrying both passengers and goods between the

islands. Links with outside countries are provided by major airports on Grand Turk and Providenciales and, to a lesser extent, by a small airport on South Caicos.

44. In March 1992, the Chief Minister said that, since Providenciales was the Territory's major tourist destination, the Government had turned its attention with urgency to the development of a proper airport terminal on that island. The Government had been able to secure a sum of US$ 3 million from the United Kingdom and a soft loan of an equal amount from the European Development Bank for the renovation and expansion of the facility.

G. Assistance from organizations of the United Nations system and other international institutions

45. Several United Nations bodies and specialized agencies provide assistance to the Territory. Such assistance is coordinated and carried out within the framework of inter-agency consultations between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Territory also receives aid from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

46. Within the United Nations system, UNDP continues to be the main source of technical assistance to the Territory. In its Fourth Programming Cycle, UNDP provided high-level technical support to key sectors of the Territory. This enabled the setting up of various projects in housing, education and water management, with the assistance of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, UNESCO and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, respectively. UNDP provided technical advice and support in the development and formulation of national policies, in the improvement of infrastructure, in export promotion and in human resources development. For the ongoing country programme, and following talks between UNDP and the Government on development priorities, UNDP will, inter alia, provide training to develop administrative management skills and assistance in environmental management. In the latter activity, UNDP will address the issues of water management, sewage disposal and reduction of the impact of the tourist industry on the environment.

47. The UNDP programme of assistance for the period 1993-1996 is described in the Third Country Programme for Turks and Caicos Islands, which was approved by the Governing Council of UNDP in February 1993. It makes provision for $971,000 in technical assistance resources in the form of the regular indicative planning figure allocated to the country.

48. In addition, the Turks and Caicos Islands are a beneficiary of the programme of assistance between UNDP and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which is a component of the Fourth Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, approved by the Governing Council of UNDP in May 1992. The planned

expenditure for the CARICOM component of the regional programme for this period is $7 million.

49. During the period under review, UNCTAD took steps to implement its Automated System for Customs Data in the framework of its programme on trade facilitation. The ILO provided training in equipment maintenance and repair to technical staff of the Ministry of Works, Utilities and Labour, as well as to other government services. It also provided assistance in the fields of vocational training and social security and helped establish a national insurance scheme.

50. The services of a consultant were provided by FAO for a project on integrated development planning. WHO, whose technical cooperation is coordinated by PAHO, provided technical assistance in the areas of community water supply and sanitation, health services development and the control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). UNESCO trained project directors in the field of education in the development of an appropriate curriculum for preventive drug education.

51. The Turks and Caicos was admitted as an associate member of CARICOM in July 1991.

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour and immigration

52. The Government is the largest employer, with 31 per cent of the active labour force holding government jobs. Agriculture and fisheries account for 18.5 per cent of the labour force, the hotel and restaurant industry employs 15.2 per cent and the construction and installation sector together employ 12.7 per cent. The manufacturing, commerce, transport and communication, insurance and real estate sectors employ, in sum, 13 per cent of the workforce.

53. As previously reported by the Caribbean Development Bank, the growth in tourism and construction on Providenciales stimulated the movement of labour from the other islands. In addition, the increased employment of immigrant workers to meet the strong demand for labour was partly responsible for a sharp increase in population over the past few years. The Government decided to formalize the foreign worker scheme in order to institutionalize the existing ad hoc arrangements. It anticipated that the expected strong growth in tourism on Providenciales would generate further increases in the flow of foreign workers, placing considerable stress on social services. 7/

Immigration

54. The influx of illegal immigrants from neighbouring islands, either for political or economic reasons, is a recurrent problem. In May 1990, the Legislative Council enacted an immigration bill, which provided for new methods of dealing with applications for work permits, the establishment of an immigration board, the redesignation of the post of Chief Immigration Officer as

Director of Immigration and the introduction of a firm policy on the whole question of immigration.

55. In his 1992 address to the Legislature, the Chief Minister said that, in an effort to control illegal immigration, the Government had introduced a system of computerized records to track down illegal immigrants (see A/AC.109/1139, para. 67). In his 1993 Budget Speech, however, he recognized that the Territory still faced serious illegal immigration problems. The Government, he said, was determined to resolve the issue, but its actions were hampered by temporary impediments, including the shortage of funds for repatriation, despite the fact that the Government had substantially increased its budgetary allocation for fiscal year 1993/94 for that purpose. The Chief Minister also said that the situation in Haiti was another impediment to the repatriation scheme.

56. He added that the Government was further faced with the expatriate community's increasing expectation of being granted belongerships although the permanent resident status of the expatriates would be sufficient to protect their positions and livelihood in the islands. The Chief Minister, who believes that the Territory should have a population of at least 25,000 to attain economic viability, said that the Government would organize a population forum to debate long-standing issues, such as the Territory's small population and consequent limited market, which make it costly for the inhabitants to obtain many of the goods and services that are available elsewhere.

B. Public health and environment

57. The Chief Minister said in July 1993 that the main purpose of the new Ministry of Health and Social Security was to strengthen the Territory's health and social welfare system and to increase its capacity to deliver services adequately to its people. In addition, the new ministry would be responsible for national insurance and housing.

58. He noted that a new primary and secondary health care facility was now under construction in Providenciales and that it would be fully equipped. It would offer patients a wide range of services which would include medical and surgical assistance in paediatrics and other areas. Also, a haemodialysis unit would be set up at the Grand Turk Hospital as a life support system for patients requiring dialysis treatment.

59. Recognizing the serious threat posed by AIDS and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to the people of the Territory, the Government continued to support the AIDS prevention and control programme. The Ministry of Health had recently appointed a qualified AIDS coordinator for the programme, which was expected to gain momentum.

60. New initiatives taken by the Government to protect the environment included the Public Environment Health Ordinance, the Parks Ordinance and the National Trust Ordinance designating 33 protected areas as national parks, nature reserves, sanctuaries and places of historical interest. Those areas totalled 699 square kilometres.

61. In pursuance of its pledge to take severe measures against offenders, the Government had brought pressure to bear on many owners/occupiers of property to remove garbage and derelict buildings. On the initiative of the Department of Planning and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Parks, a campaign of publicity had been launched and information had been disseminated to raise awareness and respect for the environment.

62. The Environmental Health Department has made tremendous strides in the monitoring of the quality of drinking water. In order to address the threat of cholera which existed, a project has been worked out for the Five Cays area which was considered a high-risk sector. Steps have been taken to deliver a supply of safe filtered and chlorinated water to the community through protected wells equipped with pumps. In addition to the continued improvement of water quality, the Department's main goals remained the improvement of solid waste management and vector control (mosquitoes), as well as the training of staff.

C. Social and welfare services

63. The Chief Minister said in his Budget Speech of July 1993 that the national insurance scheme had collected over $3.5 million between April 1992 and May 1993 and had paid out some $71,000 in benefits, including injury, sickness, disablement benefits, maternity allowance, funeral grants and retirement grants. He added that, in addition to providing those benefits to the people, the insurance scheme was a valuable stock of national savings which his Government would seek to reinvest in the community.

64. Government efforts in the housing sector included the completion of a settlement upgrading survey for Grand Turk with a view to improving the quality of low-income housing.

65. The Chief Minister announced that efforts would be made to institute a family court system to secure child support from estranged fathers who were employed. This would relieve the state from the burden of dealing with the increasing number of applications for financial aid for unsupported children.

V. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

66. There are two main levels in the educational system of the Turks and Caicos Islands, namely, primary and secondary. Children receive seven years of primary schooling between 4 and 12 years of age. Secondary education at the three public high schools in the Territory lasts for five years. Education is free and compulsory for children up to the age of 15 years. A private commercial college is functioning on Grand Turk.

67. The Chief Minister said in March 1992 that there were 11 primary schools in the Territory with an enrolment of 1,383 students and 72 teachers, 4 high schools with an enrolment of 993 and a staff of 83, for a total of 2,376 students and 155 teachers.

68. Only 40 of the primary school teachers were trained. The Ministry of Education has set a target that within five years all the teachers at the primary level would be fully trained. At the high school level, 85 per cent of the staff were expatriate contract officers, including three principals. The Government was committed to providing further scholarships for students to obtain university degrees and thereby reduce the ratio of contract teachers in the high schools.

69. The secondary schools continued to offer the Caribbean Examinations Council programme at the general and basic proficiency levels. In addition, students continued to take the national examination administered by the Department of Education.

70. The School for Field Studies on South Caicos, the first university-level institution, is devoted exclusively to marine environmental studies. Under an agreement concluded between the Government and the Ministry of Education in the Bahamas, qualified students from the Territory can attend the College of the Bahamas on scholarships provided by the Government of the Bahamas.

71. Addressing the Legislature in July 1993, the Chief Minister said that the Government had taken significant steps to improve the educational standards of the Territory. Its efforts to upgrade the quality of the staff in the primary schools were already bearing fruit, as evidenced by the intellectual level of the students who graduated and entered the high schools.

72. The Government had continued to expand physical facilities at eight schools, at a total cost of approximately US $2 million. It had also set up a task force on the establishment of a tertiary education institution which was currently working on the preparation of curricula for business studies, pre-health courses, technical and vocational studies, and the introduction to teacher training. The task force was established to coordinate those endeavours with regional polytechnic institutions so as to enable the Territory's high school graduates to qualify beforehand for professional programmes of study in the Territory. In addition to being advantageous for the students, that procedure would yield substantial savings in educational costs.
The Government announced that the number of scholarships awarded in 1993 was 20 per cent higher than the previous year.

Notes

1/ The information contained in the present paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 4 April 1990 and on 24 September 1993 for the period 1992-1994.

2/ Caribbean Development Bank, Annual Economic Report, 1991 (Turks and Caicos Islands).

3/ Turks and Caicos News, 23 April 1991.

4/ Ibid., 27 April 1991.

5/ The local currency is the United States dollar.

6/ Caribbean Development Bank, Annual Report, 1992 (Barbados).

7/ Ibid., Annual Report, 1991.